श्री सभापति: वह गलत किया है, सही किया है, मैं तो उसको ठीक नहीं कर सकता। .... **(व्यवधान)...**

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, फिर यह कैसे कंट्रोल होगा? सर, जो लोग डिग्रियां लेते हैं, उनको जोब वगैरह कुछ नहीं मिलेगा, तो वे कैसे करेंगे? इसकी स्पष्टता आनी चाहिए, सर।

श्री सभापति: नेक्स्ट क्वैश्चन-111, श्री कर्णेन्दु भट्टाचार्य।

REC Silchar

*111. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Regional Engineering College, Silchar, Assam has been converted into NIT;

(b) whether the post of its principal is lying vacant for more than a year or so;

(c) whether Government are taking any action to fill up the post; and

(d) if so, by when the post is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The post will be filled shortly.

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, the Regional Engineering College at Silchar in Assam has been converted into NIT as per the decision taken by the earlier Government. But the institute does not have a permanent Director or Principal for the past one and a half years. What is the reason for this? Would the hon. Minister come up with a reply regarding this prestigious institution of India? We all know the situation regarding admission of students all over the country. There is no permanent Principal in this institute.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister when a Principal or Director would be appointed on a permanent basis.

श्री मोहम्मद अली फातमी: सर, रीज़नल इंजीनियरिंग कालेज, सिलचर को 28 जून, 2002 को डीम्ड यूनिवर्सिटी NIT का दर्जा दिया गया था। उसके बाद से कम से कम तीन मर्तबा इस पोस्ट के

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Mr. Chairman Sir, as we all know, due to lack of hostel and boarding facilities in many private and Government schools or colleges, many tribal students from the rural areas drop out and do not pursue further studies. Hence, this area needs to be addressed by the Government and speical attention given. While going through the Government's reply, it is found that the amount sanctioned for this programme is Rs. two million. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the amount sanctioned for this programme has been utilized and the programme implemented on the ground. If not, what are the mechanisms to ensure the same.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, it has been rightly said that it is important to have hostels in the country and that it will also lessen the problem of drop-outs. But the question here relates to Nagaland and I have already given my reply. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we are having a Centrally-sponsored scheme, which is on a 50:50 basis—50% from the Central Government side and 50% from the State Government. We are setting up hostels everywhere in the country. But in so far as Nagaland is concerned, we have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Nagaland regarding the setting up of hostels for Scheduled Tribes in Nagaland itself and also in Delhi. Also there will be Hostels for Scheduled Tribes are working girls. But I would like to inform the hon. Member on this score that currently, we have also received a demand for establishing hostels in Delhi for students coming from the North-East and, on this, we are proceeding in a very proactive manner.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Sir, my supplementary question is this. In the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, it is clearly mentioned that the North-Eastern States would be given special assistance to upgrade and expand infrastructure development; and I feel that education is one area, which needs to be addressed properly. If you compare the sanctioned amount for the year 2003-04 with the amount sanctioned in the year 2004-05, there is no increase in the allocation of funds to the North-Eastern States, not only Nagaland. I would like to know whether hon. Minister himself is satisfied with the allocation of such a meagre amount for the North-Eastern Region during the current financial year? If not, what measures has been taken up to increase the allocation to develop these areas?